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## **You Can Help Keep Vulnerable Adults Safe**

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Almost 140,000 Nebraskans are 65 years and older and more active than ever before. But there are others who have impairments that make them more vulnerable to abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Adult Protective Services (APS) staff in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) helps protect those vulnerable adults. APS investigates allegations of abuse, neglect or exploitation of adults over the age of 18 who have serious impairments that limit their ability to live independently. When abuse has occurred, APS may offer time-limited services and arrange for services in the community.

During 2009, DHHS received 7,093 reports alleging possible abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults of all ages who were living in the home or in a facility like a nursing home. APS served almost 750 adult victims who were 60 years and older during fiscal year 2008-09.

Be aware of the types of adult abuse:

- Physical abuse – infliction of physical pain or injury
- Sexual abuse – unwanted sexual contact or activity
- Neglect – failure to provide shelter, food, clothing, needed medical care
- Self-neglect – failure to provide one's self with necessities such as food, clothing, shelter, needed medical care or financial management
- Financial exploitation – taking a vulnerable adult's resources by coercion or other means

We can all help protect our family members, friends and neighbors. If you have reason to believe a person is in a situation that would result in abuse or has been abused, please make a report to the APS hotline toll-free at 1-800-652-1999.